

NOTES

***Ochrosia minima* (Markgraf) Fosberg & Boiteau (Apocynaceae), a new record for Australia**

While undertaking field collecting on far north Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, I encountered several populations of an unknown fruiting *Ochrosia* species (Apocynaceae). This taxon had been previously collected in Queensland a number of times and the collections had either remained undetermined or had been misidentified as *Neisosperma poweri* (Bailey) Fosberg & Sachtel at the Queensland Herbarium. *N. poweri* does not occur on Cape York Peninsula but reaches its northern limit on the Atherton Tableland.

On examination of an isotype of *O. minima* (Markgraf) Fosberg & Boiteau from New Guinea, it was found that it matched the unknown *Ochrosia* sp. from Australia. *O. minima* was previously known only from the type collected in Papua New Guinea (Markgraf 1940, 1979). This new record brings the number of *Ochrosia* species native to Australia to three, of which only *O. moorei* (F. Muell.) F. Muell. ex Benth. is endemic.

***Ochrosia minima* (Markgraf) Fosberg & Boiteau, Adansonia ser. 2, 17: 27 (1977); *Excavatia minima* Markgraf, J. Arn. Arb. 21: 199 (1940); *Bleekeria minima* (Markgraf) Merr. & Perry, J. Arn. Arb. 24: 214 (1943). Type: Papua New Guinea. WESTERN PROVINCE: Tarara, Wassi Kussa River, December 1936, L.J. Brass 8512 (holo: B, n.v.; iso: A, n.v.; BRI!). Fig. 1.**

Illustration: Williams, Native Pl. Queensland 3: 231 (1987) [as *Ochrosia* sp.]

**Specimens examined** (all BRI). Australia. Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: Lake Boronto - Newcastle Bay, 10°45'S, 142°32'E, Sep 1974, Tracey 14341; Lockerbie Scrub, Cape York Rd, 5 km N of old "Lockerbie" (abandoned) homestead site, Sep 1985, Williams 85215; "Long Scrub", Bamaga district, Cape York, May 1962, Webb & Tracey 5972; Heathlands road, 11.3 km N of Captain Billy Landing turnoff, 11°02'S, 142°32'E, Jun 1988, Forster 4415 & Tucker; Jardine River N.P., 11°18'S, 142°36'E, Aug 1987, Fell 522; 3.5 km N of Captain Billy Landing turnoff, Heathlands to Bamaga road, 11°35'S, 142°33'E, Jun 1988, Forster 4500 & Tucker; N of Olive River, 12°07'S, 143°04'E, Sep 1974, Webb & Tracey 13728; N of Olive River, near mouth, 12°07'S, 143°05'E, Sep 1974, Tracey 14479; ENE flank of Mt Tozer, 12°45'S, 143°11'E, Oct 1986, Tucker 35; Mt Tozer, near Iron Range, 12°45'S, 143°12'E, Nov 1977, Tracey 14846; Hill E of Mt Tozer, Iron Range area, 12°45'S, 143°13'E, Nov 1977, Tracey 14214; Tozer Range, 0.5 miles [0.83 km] E of Mt Tozer, Jul 1948, Brass 19461; Head of Leo Ck above gorge, McIlwraith Range, 13°41'S, 143°23'E, Aug 1986, Fell 322.

**Distribution and habitat:** *Ochrosia minima* is found from the McIlwraith Range north to Cape York on Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, and in the southern part of Papua New Guinea (Map 1). It is a relatively common understory shrub in evergreen notophyll vineforests on white sand-dune systems or on red acid volcanics.

**Notes:** In his 1979 account of *O. minima*, Markgraf cites the type (not specified as to holotype or isotype) as being at A. However, in the protologue (Markgraf 1940), the holotype is stated to be at B, and an isotype at A. While an additional thirteen collections for this species are now known, little can be added to the thorough descriptions given by Markgraf (1940, 1979).

In general appearance, *O. minima* closely resembles *O. moorei* (F. Muell.) F. Muell. ex Benth. from southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. However, it is conspicuously different from this southern species in the predominantly opposite leaves and the much smaller fruit. The three Australian taxa of *Ochrosia* may be distinguished with the following key.

- 1. Leaves 3- or 4-whorled, obovate-oblong to broadly elliptic; fruit subtriquetrous . . . . . ***O. elliptica***
- Leaves opposite or 3- whorled, obovate-cuneate to lanceolate; fruit ellipsoid-rounded or ellipsoid-ovoid . . . . . 2
- 2. Leaves opposite, very rarely 3-whorled; fruit ellipsoid-rounded, 1.5-1.6 cm long, 0.9-1 cm diameter . . . . . ***O. minima***
- Leaves predominantly 3-whorled, very rarely opposite; fruit ellipsoid-ovoid, 6-7 cm long, 2.7-3 cm diameter . . . . . ***O. moorei***

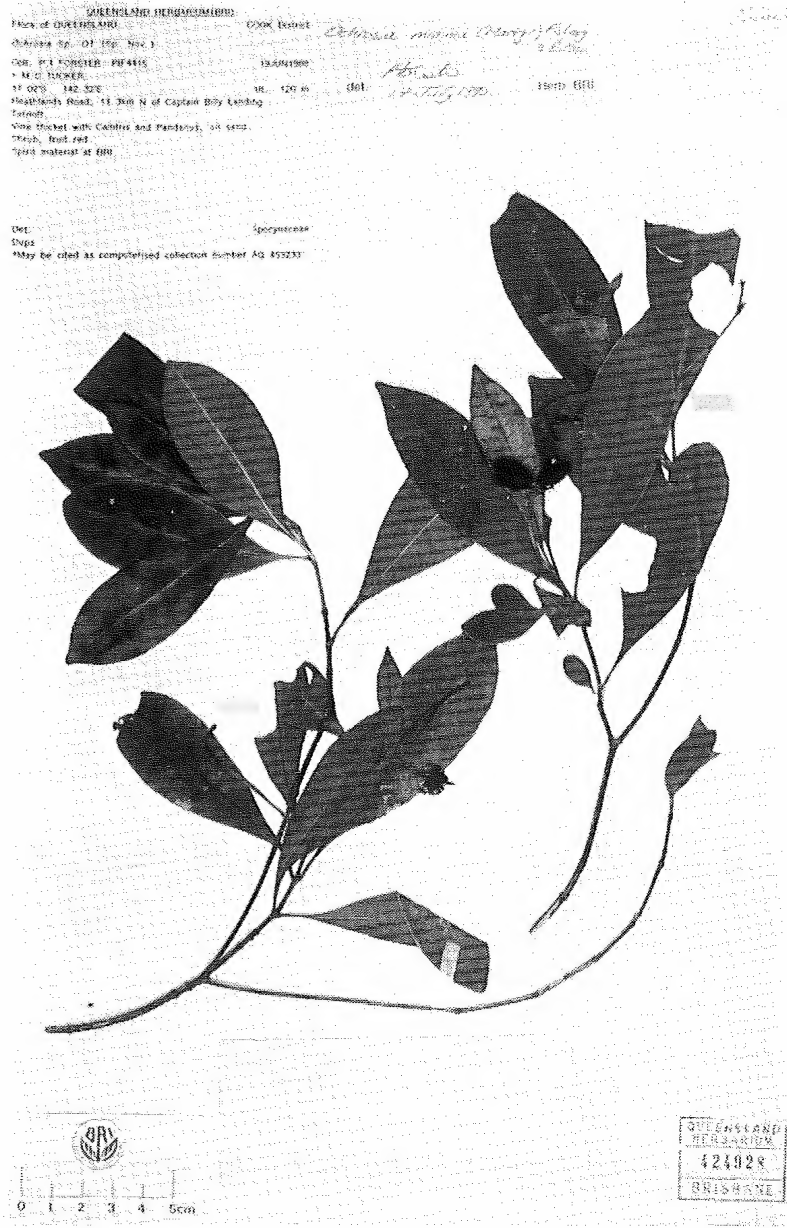
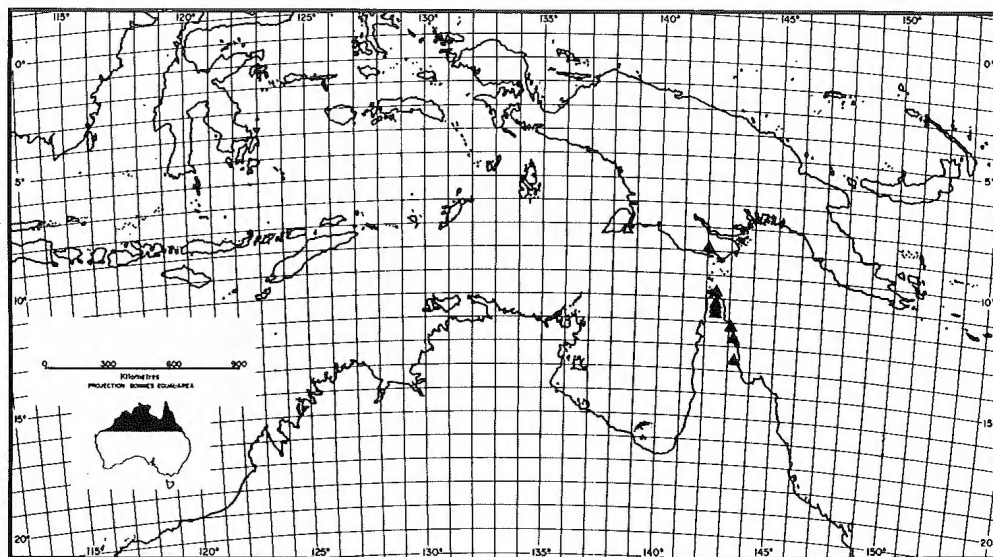


Fig. 1. *Ochrosia minima*. Forster 4415 & Tucker (BRI).



Map 1. Distribution of *Ochrosia minima* in New Guinea and northern Queensland.

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### References

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